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Letter dated 5 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 3 March 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union on the presidential elections in Nigeria (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Dieter **Kastrup**
Permanent Representative of
Germany to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the presidential elections in Nigeria, issued on 3 March 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the holding of presidential elections in Nigeria on 27 February 1999. These elections represent a significant step on the way to the installation of a democratically elected civilian Government after 15 years of military rule in Nigeria, which will end with the handing over of power to the democratically elected civil President on 29 May 1999.

The European Union welcomes the fact that, according to reports from its observers, the voting procedures were held on the basis of a multi-party system and universal suffrage and were based on democratic principles. The European Union congratulates the people of Nigeria on an election which was held in a spirit of openness and which proceeded peacefully. It appeals to all parties concerned to accept and honour the results that generally reflect the wish of the Nigerian people. The European Union notes with satisfaction that despite tight deadlines and difficult organizational conditions the Independent Electoral Commission was able to organize the election in such a way as to enable the Nigerian majority of voters to express their will. However, a number of serious irregularities were encountered and should be investigated.

The European Union is aware that the newly elected President and his Government have a major task before them. The European Union assures the Nigerian people and Government of its willingness to continue to promote political and economic reforms and its readiness to cooperate with the elected authorities towards strengthening the rule of law, respect for human rights and good governance in Nigeria. The European Union hopes that the new Government, in the interest of the entire country, will be able to succeed in reconciling all those who opposed each other in the past, and will thus lead Nigeria to a better future and enable it to assume its due role in the international community of States and peoples.

The Central and Eastern European countries and Cyprus associated with the European Union and the countries of the European Free Trade Association members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.